ABSTRACT

APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR
DUAL DATA PATH PROCESSING

A computer processor with control and data processing capabilities comprises a decode unit for decoding instructions. A data processing facility comprises a first data execution path including fixed operators and a second data execution path including at least configurable operators, the configurable operators having a plurality of predefined configurations, at least some of which are selectable by means of an opcode portion of a data processing instruction. The decode unit is operable to detect whether a data processing instruction defines a fixed data processing operation or a configurable data processing operation, said decode unit causing the computer system to supply data for processing to said first data execution path when a fixed data processing instruction is detected and to said configurable data execution path when a configurable data processing instruction is detected.

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